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JUL 25 2007

Serial No. 09/831,432

Art Unit: 1751

In the Claims:

Please enter the following amended claims in the application. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Canceled)

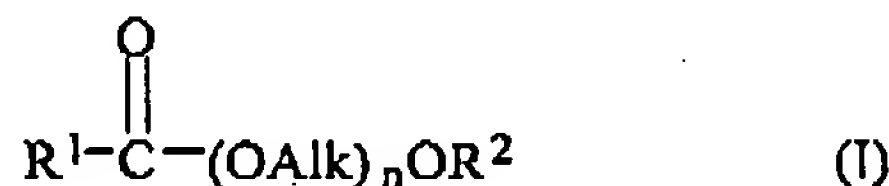
Claim 15 (Currently amended): The method according to claim [[14]] 18, wherein each AlkO represents a CH₂CH₂O, R² represents a methyl group, and n is a number of from 5 to 15.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The method according to claim [[14]] 18, wherein the alkoxyated carboxylic acid ester is prepared by reacting a carboxylic acid ester and an alkylene oxide in the presence of calcined hydrotalcite.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The method according to claim [[14]] 18, wherein the alkoxyated carboxylic acid ester is present in the rinse agent in an amount of from 0.5 to 40% by weight.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A method of rinsing machine-washed tableware materials, said method comprising:

(a) providing ~~an anionic surfactant-free~~ a rinse agent comprising (i) an alkoxyated carboxylic acid ester with a narrow homolog distribution of ~~the general~~ a formula (I):



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wherein $R^1C(O)$ represents an aliphatic acyl group, each $AlkO$ independently represents an alkoxylate selected from the group consisting of CH_2CH_2O , $CHCH_3CH_2O$ and CH_2CHCH_3O , n is a number of from 1 to 20, and R^2 represents an aliphatic alkyl group and (ii) an additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohol polyglycol ethers, alk(en)yl oligoglycosides, fatty acid-N-alkyl glucamides, hydroxy mixed ethers, mixed ethers, and mixtures thereof; and

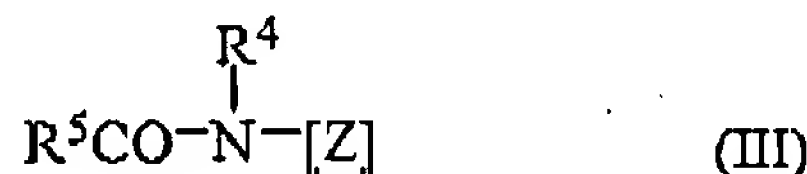
(b) contacting a tableware material surface with the rinse agent during machine washing of the tableware material surface.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The method according to claim 18, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant comprises an alk(en)yl oligoglycoside of the general a formula (II):



wherein R^3 represents an alkyl or alkenyl group having from 4 to 22 carbon atoms, each G independently represents a sugar unit containing 5 or 6 carbon atoms and p represents a number of from 1 to 10.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The method according to claim 18, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant comprises a fatty acid-N-alkyl polyhydroxy alkylamide of the general a formula (III):



wherein R^5CO represents an aliphatic acyl group having from 6 to 22 carbon atoms, R^4 represents an alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and $[Z]$ represents a linear or branched polyhydroxyalkyl group having from 3 to 12 carbon atoms and from 3 to 10 hydroxyl groups.

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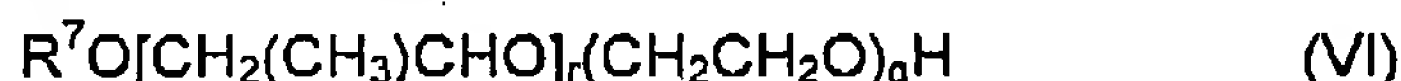
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Claim 21 (Currently amended): The method according to claim 18, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant comprises a fatty alcohol poly(alkylene)glycol ether of the general a formula (V):



wherein R^6 represents an alk(en)yl group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, each MO independently represents an alkoxide selected from the group consisting of propylene oxide and butylene oxide, p is a number of from 1 to 15 and m is a number of from 0 to 10.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): The method according to claim 18, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant comprises a fatty alcohol polyalkylene glycol ether of the general a formula (VI):



wherein R^7 represents an alk(en)yl group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, r is a number of from 1 to 10 and q is a number of from 0 to 15.

Claim 23 (Currently amended): The method according to claim 18, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant comprises a hydroxy mixed ether of the general a formula (VII):



wherein R^8 represents an alk(en)yl group having from 4 to 18 carbon atoms, each R^9 independently represents a hydrogen or a methyl or ethyl group, each R^{10} independently represents an alkyl group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms, x is a number of from 0 to 10, y is a number of from 1 to 30 and z is the number 1.

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Claim 24 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the alkoxyated carboxylic acid ester and the additional nonionic surfactant are present in the rinse agent in a ratio by weight of from 10:90 to 80:20.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): The method according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 18, wherein the rinse agent further comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): The method according to claim ~~[[17]]~~ 19, wherein the rinse agent further comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.

Claim 29 (Currently amended): The method according to claim ~~[[19]]~~ 20, wherein the rinse agent further comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 29, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.

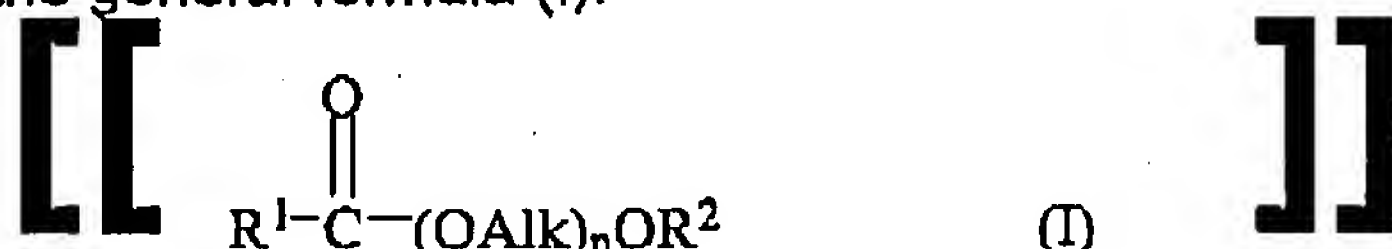
Claim 31 (Currently amended): The method according to claim 21, whereon, the rinse agent further comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof ~~An anionic~~

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~~surfactant-free rinsing agent comprising:~~

~~(a) an alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester with a narrow homolog distribution of the general formula (I):~~



~~herein $\text{R}^1\text{C}(\text{O})$ represents an aliphatic acyl group, each AlkO independently represents an alkoxylate selected from the group consisting of $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, $\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{O}$, n is a number of from 1 to 20, and R^2 represents an aliphatic alkyl group; and~~

~~(b) an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.~~

Claim 32 (Canceled)

Claim 33 (Currently amended): The rinsing-agent method according to claim ~~[[31]]~~ 18, wherein the rinse agent further comprising comprises a solubilizer.

Claim 34 (Currently amended): The rinsing-agent method according to claim ~~[[31]]~~ 24, wherein the alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester is present in the rinse agent in an amount of from 0.5 to 40% by weight.

Claim 35 (Currently amended): The rinsing-agent method according to claim ~~[[31]]~~ 34, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.

Claim 36 (Currently amended): The rinsing-agent method according to claim ~~[[32]]~~ 31, wherein, the rinse agent further comprising comprises a solubilizer, and wherein the alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester is present in the rinse agent in an amount

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of from 0.5 to 40% by weight, and wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.